

### **REMARKS**

Claims 21-39 remain pending in the present application. Claims 21-23, 25-26 and 29 have been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed.

### **CLAIM OBJECTIONS**

Claim 29 is objected to because of informalities. Claim 29 has been amended to overcome the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

### **REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112**

Claims 22-23 and 25-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The claims have been amended to overcome the rejection. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

### **REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 21-23 and 25-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Saito, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,749,671). Claims 21-23 and 25-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Marcella, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,156,685). Claim 21 has been amended to define the particles as having a nanometer-size diameter of not more than approximately 100 nanometers.

U.S. Pat. No. 4,749,671 discloses an exhaust gas cleaning catalyst composed of a refractory structure and a catalytically active substance supported thereon, wherein

the surface or part of the catalyst is formed of numerous irregularly arranged protrusions composed of a refractory inorganic powder having a particle diameter of 5 to 300 micrometers. Since 5 micrometers is 50 times 100 nanometers, and 300 micrometers is 3000 times 100 nanometers, it is clear that particles having a nanometer-size diameter in the present invention are greatly different from the refractory inorganic powder described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,749,671.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,156,685 discloses Zirconia ceramic fibers, the diameter of which, excluding the coating, ranges from 15  $\mu\text{m}$ . Since 15  $\mu\text{m}$  is 150 times 100 nanometers, nanofilaments having a nanometer-size diameter in the present invention are greatly different from the Zirconia ceramic fibers described in U.S. Pat. No. 6,156,685.

Thus, Applicants believe Claim 21, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the art of record. Likewise, Claims 22, 23 and 25-39, which ultimately depend from Claim 21, are also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

#### **CONCLUSION**

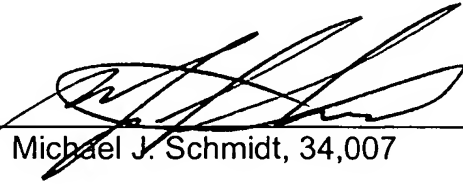
It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner

believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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